Purchase of equity in Rosneft

2691. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to buy equity in the Russian-based oil firm named Rosneft;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) what is the criteria being used to determine the viability of such investments in distant countries;

(d) whether a study has been conducted on the inherent risks of such investments for India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Gas for steel manufacturing

2692. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to give gas for steel manufacturing in these days of competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) GAIL supplied around 1.73 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) gas to the Iron & Steel consumers during 2005-06. Such consumers also source their requirements from sources other than GAIL.

Oil exploration in Tamil Nadu

2693. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where oil exploration is taking place in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the stages of progress of such exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Exploration for oil is taking place in nine exploration blocks in Tamil Nadu. The details are as under:

Blocks	District(s)
1. CY-ONN-2003/1	Thanjavur
2. CY-ONN-2002/1	Cuddalore
3. CY-ONN-2002/2	Nagapattinam & Cuddalore.
4. L-1	Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Tiruvarur & Tanjore.
5. L-1 Extn.	Nagapattinam
6. L-11	Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Tanjore & Pudukkottai
7. L-X	Ramanathapuram
8. L-XI	Cuddalore
9. L-XII	Ramanathapuram

(b) As on 1.4.2006, continued exploratory efforts have led to acquisition of 40823.3 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2D seismic and 3282.3 sq. km of 3D seismic data and drilling of 432 exploratory wells. These exploratory efforts have resulted in the discovery of 26 hydrocarbon finds and established 123.27 Million Metric Tons of (O+OEG) in place hydrocarbons.

Guidelines on new LPG connections

2694. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district administration has any role in the release of new LPG connections to the consumers in any part of the country;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued by the district administration in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the district administration is pressuring the IOC not to release second connection for a family in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu;